(b) The Government has initiated various schemes and established institutions for enhancing professional skill and encouraging creative designs to boost exports. Specific mention may be made of training in designs and other crafts by National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Marketing and Service Extension Scheme, Computer Aided Design Centres and Common Facility Service Centres which are oriented to upgrade professional skills and provide design and other technical support to artisans and weaversr.

Statement

Central Plan Expenditure in Textiles Sector

(Figures in Rs. crores)

	1997-98 (Actual)	1998-99 (Actual)	1999-2000 (BE)
(1) Central Plan expenditure for textile sector	238.68	235.93	257.00*
Of which			
(a) expenditure in North East Region including Assam	39.48	32.30	27.10

*Excluding CCFI (UNDP) project of Rs.9 crores.

Amendment of Jute Marketing Order

289. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Jute Marketing Order for packing of sugar, if so, the reasons therefor, and

(b) whether it is a fact that any smallest reduction in percentage from 100% for any commodity would finally result in completely stopping such packing, because Government have no machinery to implement such laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sick Jute Mills

290. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of jute mills in the country have become chronically sick, with huge amounts outstanding to the banks, financial institutions and nearly two lakh workers;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to save the jute industry and its workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Out of the 73 Jute Mills in the country two Jute Mills are laying closed for over twelve years. These are Kanpur and Katihar Jute Mills. Four Mills are incorporated outside the country & turned into sick units out of the balance of Jute Mills, 34 Jute Mills are sick. The sick Mills except the units incorporated outside the country are referred to BIFR, a quasi-judicial body, to examine the cases of rehabilitation of every sick unit.

(c) The Government has taken the following steps towards revitalisation of the Jute Industry;

(I) Objective demand stimulation by enacting jute packing materials (compulsory use of packing commodities) Act 1987.